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NEWS RELEASE

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PORTERVILLE MAN IS SENTENCED TO SEVENTY-EIGHT MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSING FIREARMS

FRESNO- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that TALAL ALI CHAMMOUT, 48, of Porterville, was sentenced this afternoon to 78 months in federal prison by United States District Judge Oliver Wanger for being a felon in possession of 45 firearms.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Joint Terrorism Task Force, which is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Stanley A. Boone, who is prosecuting the case, CHAMMOUT's attorney had asked the district court for a sentence of 37 months. Judge Wanger disagreed, instead sentencing the defendant to the upper end of the sentencing range under the United States Sentencing Guidelines. In handing down the sentence, the district court noted the defendant's prior violent conduct associated with his prior felony conviction, his discussions with a hit man in March 2005, and his less than satisfactory answers to the court's questioning as to why he negotiated for over a year to purchase high-end weaponry overseas.

At his plea hearing on June 6, 2007, CHAMMOUT admitted that he possessed 45 separate firearms including three AK 47's, one TEC 9, and one Mini 14, all of which were semiautomatic firearms capable of accepting large capacity magazines of 15 or more rounds of ammunition. The defendant admitted that on December 7, 2006, he purchased five Beretta pistols for \$1,000 believing the firearms to be stolen government property. He also admitted that on December 10, 2004, he purchased two sets of night vision goggles, one small arms protective insert, two chemical suits, two ballistic vests, one set of lower torso fragmentation armor and four pairs of hot weather combat boots, believing that such property was stolen United States government property.

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